

RISE WITH US!

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

What an exciting time to be part of Fresno State! It's an honor to take this opportunity to recognize a fundamental element of our history and ethos: For 100 years, Fresno State Athletics has stood as an icon of our campus and regional identity.

And for 100 years, just like academics has inspired our talented students to become professionals and leaders, so has athletics inspired our athletes to develop the fundamentals of integrity and teamwork:

Leadership: Leadership at every level is defined by a belief in our team and the contribution of our full selves to all team endeavors, whether we are working with or against the odds.

Resilience: Flexibility of mind, body and strategy allow us to encounter situations creatively, to reassess, adapt and achieve personal and collective growth.

Focus: Sticking to our task through thick and thin, for goals that are honorable and worthy, even if seemingly unattainable, creates an immutable core of strength.

Support: Family, friends and fans fortify and bolster the team. Players' thoughts of loved ones give meaning to the game and promote inspired action.

Humility: We avoid crossing the threshold from self-assurance into hubris, an excessive pride that will inflate our sense of skill or cloud our assessment of the opponent's supposed weakness and apparent strengths.

Grit: That can-do spirit defines our Bulldogs and infuses actions with far-reaching vision and drive. It's reflected in steadfast passion and an intense focus on what matters most — especially in the face of adversity. It's the stuff that pushes an underdog to victory.

Over and over, we are reminded that our teams are cohesive groups of individuals working together to prove that the bonds between them are stronger than the odds against them.

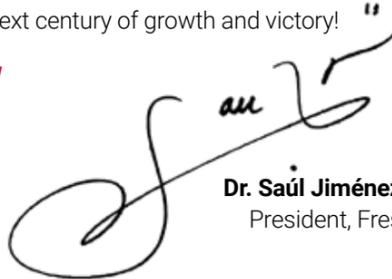
In this commemorative edition of Fresno State Magazine, we pay tribute to a century of our most accomplished and memorable student-athletes.

Our athletics program took to the field in fall 1921, sporting squads in football and men's basketball, and was joined in spring semester by baseball. Browse our historic timeline to catch glimpses of world record-setters, Olympians and other game-changers — including namesakes of familiar campus landmarks, many of whom went on to make significant community contributions beyond sport.

As I embark on my first year as your Fresno State president, I look forward to sustaining and building upon this legacy of success.

Here's to the next century of growth and victory!

Go, 'Dogs!




Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval
President, Fresno State



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Cover: Bulldog Stadium has been home to Fresno State football since the final game of the 1980 season, when Fresno State beat Montana State 21-14 in front of 25,684 fans. Of note in this photo from the early years are the grass berms near the end zones where fans used to sit picnic-style before a remodel in 1990.

Left: After the pandemic prevented fans from in-person experiences at many Fresno State athletic events in 2020, the Red Wave returned to Bulldog Stadium in 2021 and was just as boisterous and raucous as ever. Photo by Cary Edmondson

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Fresno State serves the richly diverse region of Central California. We are proud to have the U.S. Department of Education designate our University as both a Hispanic-Serving Institution and an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution.

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If you receive more than one copy, please pass it along to a friend of Fresno State. If you would like to support the University, visit fresnostate.edu/givenow to make your contribution. Thank you.

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Lo and Behold

Photo by Cary Edmondson

Lorenzo Neal became the eighth Fresno State football alumnus to have his jersey (No. 22) retired on Oct. 23, when Fresno State beat Nevada 34-32 in front of 33,012 fans at Bulldog Stadium.

Known for his punishing blocks, Neal is considered arguably the greatest NFL fullback of all-time after a 16-year career that included stints with seven teams, including the Saints and Chargers. While with the Titans in 2000, he fielded the kickoff known as the "Music City Miracle" that sent his team to the Super Bowl. A fourth-round draft pick in 1993, Neal earned four Pro Bowl selections and three All-Pro honors.

At Fresno State from 1989-92, Neal was an All-American as part of a three-headed monster in the backfield that included Ron Rivers and Anthony Daigle. The Lemoore native is ninth in school history with 2,405 rushing yards and 27 rushing touchdowns. In 1992, he was named the Freedom Bowl MVP, leading the Bulldogs to a 24-7 win over USC at Anaheim Stadium. He was also an All-American heavyweight wrestler.

Neal's name and No. 22 now adorn the Bulldog Stadium press box alongside the other retired names and numbers: No. 4 Derek Carr (2009-13), No. 8 David Carr (1997-2001), No. 9 Kevin Sweeney (1983-86), No. 12 Trent Dilfer (1991-93), No. 14 Vince Petrucci (1976-78), No. 21 Dale Messer (1958-60) and No. 83 Henry Ellard (1979-82).

Climbing the Social Ladder

National publications show that Fresno State students continue to beat the odds when it comes to graduation-rate performance

By BoNhia Lee

There was a time when Jorge Gomez Jr. and his family lived out of their van while his father looked for work in San Jose.

His parents immigrated to the city from Mexico in the 1980s for a better life. Gomez was born in San Jose. When his father finally found work in a warehouse, they were able to rent an apartment.

But the challenges kept coming. Gomez spent his childhood in and out of the hospital with his sick mother who couldn't keep any food or water down and who endured exploratory surgery to find out what was wrong with her. She was later diagnosed with a tumor behind her stomach.

That experience led Gomez to pursue a nursing degree at Fresno State, where he heard there was a great program. He expects to graduate this fall.

Like Gomez, many Fresno State students overcome great challenges before pursuing higher education — an effort that can change their lives, and the trajectory of their families, forever.

The University has excelled at helping students beat the odds. Year-over-year, the Fresno State has appeared at the top of national rankings lists for graduation-rate performance and social mobility — the movement of individuals or families through a system of social hierarchy.

Fresno State continued its five-year streak of ranking No. 3 among public national universities for graduation-rate performance in U.S. News and World Report's 2022 Best College Rankings in September.



Fresno State also placed fifth overall in graduation-rate performance among all national universities, according to an analysis of U.S. News' Academic Insights data used in the magazine's annual rankings. The University has ranked No. 3 among public universities for the past four years and was No. 1 in 2017.

The graduation-rate performance uses the University's actual six-year graduation rate compared to predicted performance based on admissions data, school financial resources, the proportion of federal financial aid recipients who are first-generation, math and science orientations and the proportion of undergraduates receiving Pell grants.

"This ranking shows the determination and resilience of our talented students, who come from diverse backgrounds and experiences, to achieve their higher-education dreams," says Fresno State President Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval. "It is also a recognition of our outstanding faculty and staff who inspire and empower our students for success. And this is the best part: Their success is directly tied to the success of our community and a higher quality of life in our Valley."

U.S. News and World Report has published its Best College rankings for the past 37 years as a guide for students and parents to compare the academic quality of universities and colleges across the nation. The rankings evaluate campuses on a number of factors, including graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, academic reputation, financial resources and graduate-rate performance.

The magazine's latest rankings assessed 1,466 bachelor's degree-granting institutions. Here's a look at other categories where Fresno State continues to deliver on its mission to educate and empower students for success.

- Moving up five spots from last year, Fresno State ranked No. 21 in social mobility for how well schools graduate students who receive federal Pell Grants, meaning they come from low- to medium-income households.
- The Lyles College of Engineering's undergraduate engineering programs ranked No. 53 out of 246 universities, an advancement over the previous year when it ranked No. 60.
- In a new ranking, the Fresno State undergraduate nursing program placed No. 251 out of 694 institutions that offer a bachelor's in nursing.
- The University ranked No. 107 among all national public universities, and was one of two California State Universities to make the list.

Fresno State's reclassification as a Carnegie doctoral university in 2016 means it joined the top research universities in the nation, such as Stanford, Columbia and Harvard, in rankings produced by the publication. Fresno State offers doctoral degrees in nursing, physical therapy and educational leadership.

Fresno State has appeared on several national college rankings for excellence in social mobility, research and service over the years. In August, the University ranked No. 54 among the best national universities in Washington Monthly's 2021 College Rankings, and was the only California State University to make the top 100. Fresno State also ranked No. 41 in the Best Bang for the Buck: West category.

— BoNhia Lee is a writer in University Communications at Fresno State.



No. 3

Graduation-Rate Performance among national public universities

U.S. News and World Report

No. 21

Social Mobility

U.S. News and World Report



A New Campus Retail Experience

The Square at Campus Pointe adds another key University retail space with the official grand opening celebration of Kennel Marketplace. This new store commemorates the partnership between Fresno State and Follett Higher Education Group, the largest campus retailer in North America.

Located across from the Save Mart Center, the Kennel Marketplace encompasses 10,000 square feet of retail space, offering a variety of branded apparel and gifts, Apple technology products, Gibson Farm Market food items, a print center and indoor and outdoor seating. The store also includes a Starbucks and a custom shirt bar, where customers can choose officially licensed Fresno State apparel and apply hundreds of possible design combinations.

“We are excited about the opening of this new campus store in partnership with Follett Higher Education Group, which also manages our on-campus Kennel Bookstore,” says Deborah Adishian-Astone, Fresno State’s vice president for administration and chief financial officer. “With the inclusion of a Starbucks café operated by our campus Dining Services team, this new location at Campus Pointe provides an opportunity to serve our campus and greater Central Valley community with branded Fresno State merchandise. Additionally, this new retail operation including Starbucks will provide a significant number of part-time employment opportunities for our students.”

Kennel Marketplace, located at 3010 E. Campus Pointe Drive, is open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays. Starbucks will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

— Lisa Boyles Bell

Custom Shirt Bar

Customize officially licensed Fresno State apparel with hundreds of possible design combinations.

BOLD gives BACK

Gifts of All Sizes Help Students in a Major Way

Emelyn Gonzalez Ceja spent her freshman year at Fresno State taking classes online and helping her dad run his small Fresno pretzel shop on her days off.

The pandemic hit the family business hard, shutting it down for a couple months. Business still has not returned to normal. Ceja didn’t know how her dad, the breadwinner in their eight-person family, could afford to send her and her older sister to college.

At the start of the fall semester, Ceja’s worries were answered when she learned that she was the recipient of the C. Ray Steele Jr. and Mary Lou Steele Family Scholarship. The four-year renewable scholarship covers tuition and fees.

“Having donors like these reassures you that you’re on the right path and doing the right thing,” says Ceja, now a sophomore chemistry major with plans to go into anesthesiology. “It’s a good feeling [for them] to believe enough in you to fund your dreams. Some people have dreams they can’t achieve because money is an obstacle. Seeing someone grant you this gift like ‘don’t worry about that’ is a relieving feeling. Thank you so much for believing in me and my dreams and believing I can make something for myself. I’m going to get there!”

The Steeles have long supported students at Fresno State, and continued their commitment to student success with a \$100,000 gift for an endowment. Through generous donors like the Steeles, gifts to the University during the 2020-21 academic year totaled about \$28.4 million — \$24 million for academics and \$4.3 million for athletics.

“Despite the incredible challenges over the last year, the support of our Fresno State alumni and friends remained steady,” said President Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval. “Their generosity makes a lasting impact on the success of our talented students.”



Here’s a look at some of the wide range of gifts from the past year:

- **\$5 million from the Perenchio Foundation** to establish the Perenchio Family Endowed fund to support student scholarships.
- **\$1.5 million from Lou and Jane Amendola** to support the Amendola Family Student Cupboard.
- **\$350,000 from Chevron** to support the Veterans Education Program, the Fresno State Mobile Health Unit and chemistry lab renovations.
- **\$200,000 from Emeterio and Desiree Castro** to establish the Ethan Emmett Castro Hard of Hearing Endowment, which supports the Silent Garden.
- **\$259,000 from William and Karen Podolsky** to establish the William Karen Podolsky Endowed Scholarship Fund to support scholarships for students majoring in science and mathematics.
- **\$30,000 from Nell Papavasiliou** for the Nell Papavasiliou and David Hampton Charitable Lead Trust to establish a scholarship for students majoring in the Lyles College of Engineering.
- **A bequest from Ron Samuel** to support scholarships for students in agriculture.

— BoNhia Lee



Olympic Ties

Dr. Wade Gilbert, an internationally renowned coaching consultant, sport scientist and professor of sport psychology at Fresno State, was part of the Team Canada softball coaching staff in the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, earning a bronze medal. Kinesiology professor Brig Beatie was a beach volleyball official at the Tokyo Games.



Community Service Impact

Thanks to efforts of 12,690 students, faculty and staff, Fresno State provided more than 1 million hours of service to the community during the 2020-21 academic year. This is the 12th straight year it has surpassed 1 million hours. The total economic impact of that service is estimated to be \$41.3 million, based on calculations from the Independent Sector, a national nonpartisan network of nonprofit and philanthropic organizations and professionals.

Help with Housing

Sociology professors Dr. Amber Crowell and Dr. Janine Nkosi were invited to represent the Central Valley and participate in the White House Summit on Eviction Prevention in June. The professors have worked with community organizations to combat the local housing crisis over the past several years.



National Acting Awards

Fresno State students Jimmy Haynie (*right*) and Arium Andrews (*left*) had a strong showing at the Irene Ryan Acting Competition, the highlight of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, in February 2020.

“Jimmy and Arium’s performance in the final round of the Irene Ryan regional competition was extraordinary,” says Fresno State theatre professor Brad Myers. “The audience response was one of the most enthusiastic that I have ever seen, topped only by the audience reaction when [Haynie] was announced the winner. I was in a state of disbelief and exuberant joy. I cried; I howled; I laughed uncontrollably. It took me a long while to calm down and stop embarrassing myself.”

The winners of all eight regional festivals typically travel to Washington, D.C. to compete at the National Festival at the Kennedy Center. However, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the festival had to be postponed.

Nearly a year later, the national competition switched to a virtual format. The winners of each region were asked to submit a video recording of their acting package. The package included two contrasting scenes and a monologue; all to be performed in under six minutes.

Haynie and Andrews both took home national awards. Haynie was awarded the National Partners of the American Theatre Classical Acting Award and Andrews received The Kingsley Colton Award for Outstanding Partner. Both awards came with a cash prize.

“Winning either of these prestigious awards is a noteworthy accomplishment which can help vault a professional career,” Myers says. “These honors are a validation of the actor training that is provided by our department. The Fresno State brand is enriched, and many students who are choosing a university for theatre training may be more likely to consider our University because of this visibility. Also, the impact of such an honor can instill a great pride in our past and present theatre students.”

— Miguel A. Gastelum



A Partnership to Impact Generations of Valley Kids

Fresno State President Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval and Valley Children’s Healthcare President and CEO Todd Suntrapak (*pictured above*) announced an expansive partnership that will have a lasting impact on students, faculty and the community.

Valley Children’s Healthcare and Fresno State have had a long-standing relationship as both organizations have been invested in the health and well-being of youth and families in the San Joaquin Valley for generations. This sponsorship further expands the partnership of Fresno State and Valley Children’s, and their shared commitment to education and health.

“Our partnership aligns with our commitment to ensure our kids have every chance to learn, grow and live their healthiest lives possible,” says Suntrapak. “The health and well-being of our children is dependent on organizations like Fresno State and Valley Children’s to invest in their futures and to create new opportunities for them.”

Former Fresno State football standouts, brothers Derek and David Carr look forward to seeing two institutions

they admire and support working even closer together in the decade to come. Both the Carrs’ families have turned to Valley Children’s to provide care to their own children, and both serve as ambassadors for the health care network. Derek Carr’s son, Dallas, underwent life-saving surgery at Valley Children’s Hospital and spent several weeks in the neonatal intensive care unit on the Madera campus. Three of David Carr’s children have Type 1 diabetes and are cared for by specialists at Valley Children’s outpatient specialty care center in Bakersfield.

“David and I have a strong connection to Valley Children’s as grateful parents for the life-saving care our children have received there and to Fresno State for all that we received as students,” says NFL quarterback Derek Carr. “To be able to play a part in strengthening and expanding the long-term relationship between these two institutions has been rewarding.”

“Derek and I loved our time playing at Fresno State and still consider it a home away from home,” says former NFL quarterback and current NFL Network Analyst David Carr. “We are both excited to see Valley Children’s and Fresno State grow its partnership that will benefit so many students and the community.” The 10-year agreement with the California State University, Fresno

◀ From left to right: Fresno State alumnus and former No. 1 overall NFL draft pick David Carr, Valley Children’s Healthcare president and CEO Todd Suntrapak, University President Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval, and Valley Children’s Healthcare Board of Trustees chair Jeannine Grech (Photos by Cary Edmondson - Fresno State).

Athletic Corporation — a recognized campus auxiliary organization — will provide financial support of \$1 million per year over the 10-year period for operations, scholarships, collaborations for student-athletes, youth programs, opportunities to support students pursuing degrees in health, and other opportunities impacting the ability to strengthen the University’s work in children’s health.

The agreement also includes the naming rights of Bulldog Stadium and, over the next decade, will provide the opportunity for future improvements to enhance the stadium. The name of the football stadium is subject to the approval of the California State University Board of Trustees and will be determined in spring 2022 in accordance with CSU policy.

“Bulldog Stadium has long been the physical connecting point that proudly brings our Valley community together in celebration, and this union of two iconic brands in our region will only help to enhance those opportunities,” says Terry Tumey, director of Athletics.



A NEW ERA:

Name, Image,
Likeness

Fresno State student-athletes are at the forefront when it comes to navigating new money-making opportunities

By BoNhia Lee

If there's any advice that Fresno State's biggest TikTok stars can give to others, it's to "be yourself and don't do anything crazy."

It also helps to be a twin, say the Cavinders — Haley and Hanna.

The Cavinder twins, juniors on the Fresno State women's basketball team, started showing off their dribbling and shooting skills choreographed to today's music hits on the popular social media platform out of boredom during the pandemic. The last thing they expected was to gain more than 3 million followers on their shared account, which helped lead them to become the nation's first college athletes to earn money off their name, image and likeness.

After years of debate, the NCAA on June 30, 2021 adopted new regulations that allow student-athletes to benefit financially from their name, image and likeness through social media accounts, advertising campaigns and more.

The next day, Haley and Hanna Cavinder stood side-by-side in New York City's Time Square staring up at an enormous electronic billboard emblazoned with their photo in Fresno State uniforms to celebrate their first major deal with wireless provider Boost Mobile. They also signed with Six Star Pro Nutrition, a sports supplement company.

"It's just a cool moment for women in sports. I think that everyone just thinks about the top football players and their schools in the Power 5, but to be able to do this and to attend a mid-major school as women, I think that was a really cool moment for us."

HALEY CAVINDER



Twins Haley Cavinder (left) and Hanna Cavinder (right) are two of the top basketball players in the Mountain West. But it was their social media prowess that led to national headlines in July when new regulations opened the door for them to earn money off their name, image and likeness.

Cary Edmondson

Since then, the twins have also made deals with Gopuff, a consumer goods delivery service, PSD underwear, and Student Beans, a website that gives students discounts. In late August, they were among a few Fresno State athletes to appear in fun and witty commercials for Valley-based Fresno First Bank.

"[The NIL] was long overdue," says Hanna Cavinder, who was named all-Mountain West Conference for the second straight year after averaging 17 points per game. "Everyone can benefit from it in their own unique way. The quarterback would be doing something different for NIL than me and Haley would be doing. Not everyone is going to go pro after their sport, so if you can make money in college and try to use that, then I think that is positive."

Being among the first female student-athletes to score a major deal meant even more for the twins.

"That meant a lot to Hanna and I — being girls and just [having a] younger audience looking up to us — showing younger girls that they can do the same thing as us," says Haley Cavinder, who is the reigning Mountain West Player of the Year after averaging 19.8 points per game. "It's just a cool moment for women in sports. I think that everyone just thinks about the top football players and their schools in the Power 5, but to be able to do this and to attend a mid-major school as women, I think that was a really cool moment for us."

Fresno State sees the NIL as an opportunity for student-athletes to profit from their talents like any other student on campus. And like many universities nationwide, Fresno State is helping student-athletes navigate this new world and using it as a recruitment tool. The University announced on July 1, a renewed partnership with Opendorse "to support the entrepreneurial endeavors of all student-athletes."

Student-athletes are free to sign with agents who can broker endorsement deals, but they are subject to state laws and other rules developed by individual universities. Navigating through this name, image, likeness world will be a challenge, not for negative reasons, but because it's a new frontier, said Fresno State Director of Athletics Terry Tumey.

"We felt really great when this new landmark legislation happened throughout the nation [because] who are the ones setting the stage for it? The Cavinder sisters," Tumey says. "Our student-athletes are the ones out there saying, 'Hey, this is a new thing and guess what? We're a great example of how this should look.' We're very proud that they're Bulldogs and they represent us."

The Cavinders aren't the only Fresno State athletes getting into the NIL action. Fresno State football defensive end David Perales also appeared in his own Fresno First Bank commercial about teamwork and leadership, as did former softball standout Hailey Dolcini.

"It changes a lot of things for student-athletes," Perales says. "Being able to profit off our own image is awesome. Making any type of profit off of any opportunity that comes our way is huge, especially while being a student-athlete."



◀ The Cavinder sisters were greeted with an electronic billboard in New York City's Times Square on July 1, when they signed their first endorsement deals. Their story was featured by ESPN, CNN, Sports Illustrated, USA Today and many other major media outlets.

Photo courtesy of Hanna and Haley Cavinder

Yet there are some student-athletes who are cautious about the money-making opportunities. In an interview with *The Coloradoan*, a newspaper in Fort Collins, Colo., Fresno State running back Ronnie Rivers (*pictured*) seemed more worried about the season, saying "I don't want the NIL stuff to distract me from my main goal, which is to win the [Mountain West] championship and then move on to the next level, this being my last year. If opportunities arise where it won't affect my level of play or my performance, then I'm all for it. But if it's affecting what I'm doing on the field or taking a toll on my sleep or body, I'm OK with not participating in any of that."



Rivers' teammate Perales (*pictured*) echoed that sentiment. "I'm not saying that these opportunities are distractions, because I don't feel like they are, but I am more focused on football and my team right now," Perales says. "So if any more opportunities come up, I would wait until after season."



Back on campus after spending the pandemic at home in Gilbert, Arizona, with their family, the Cavinders, who are business majors with a concentration in marketing, are getting ready for pre-season training in October. Their classes are virtual this semester allowing for some extra time to fit in TikTok videos and content building for the companies they work with.

Their videos usually happen naturally, in the moment sometimes before practice, sometimes after or during and sometimes at home. "It's OK, let's film a TikTok. We just got dressed and put on some makeup," Haley Cavinder says. "We're just trying to have fun with it and not stress much about it."

Their strategy hasn't changed much, Hanna Cavinder says. "I would just say it's really about figuring out what our fans want to see and just connecting with our audience," she says.

Is there a downside to this new deal?

"Definitely the arguments when we're filming the TikToks," Hanna Cavinder says. "I'm extremely grateful for everything that has happened. I would say the only other downside is how much time you have to put in behind the scenes. I don't think people understand how much time you have to put in it. My family, my teammates and our business team have been very helpful for Haley and I."

At the end of the day, the Cavinders are still students and athletes.

"Our goal is for us to win the regular season championship and then go to the March Madness Tournament from the Mountain West Championship in March," Haley Cavinder says. "That's the main focus. We're excited about this team and this group of girls we have so we're really excited this season."



Leaving a **BOLD** Legacy

Marge Winters is a Bulldog for Life.

Richard and Marge Winters were farmers out in Easton where they grew raisins and almonds. Although they are not from the Central Valley, they have always been passionate about Fresno State and, in particular, the athletics program. For over 30 years, they were season ticket holders, cheering on the Bulldogs and supporting student-athletes at every home game.

Marge's dedication to Fresno State athletics only grew stronger and, in 2014, she became an active member of the Senior Dog Squad. She cherishes the memories made and is grateful for the relationship the Dog Squad has with the cheerleaders.

Marge appreciates what Fresno State athletics provides for the community, so when it came to supporting organizations that mattered most to her, she immediately thought of the University. That's why she is leaving a generous \$1.5 million gift in her will to support student-athletes through the Bulldog Foundation.

"I immediately thought, 'How can we help make the Bulldog Foundation successful?' Fresno State athletics has given so much to us through unforgettable experiences. Now, we can give back to them."

Richard, a life-long rancher, passed away in 2019, but Marge continues to display their eternal Bulldog spirit. Planned gifts like this one help support student-athletes as they strive for excellence in the classroom and in competition.

If you would like information on planned giving opportunities, please contact Liz Garvin, director of planned giving, at 559.278.4038 or egarvin@csufresno.edu.

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FRESNO STATE

Title IX Turns 50

Community scholarship support can fuel lifelong success of student-athletes

By Maggie Thach Morshed



◀ Lacy Barnes Mileham was a three-time national runner-up in discus at Fresno State, before competing for Team USA in the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta.

When Lacy Barnes-Mileham arrived on the Fresno State campus as a freshman in 1983, she was not alone — she had her toddler daughter in tow. Determined to break out of the societal expectation of teen mothers, Barnes-Mileham wanted to make the most of her opportunity to compete, but she needed support.

“If you were to talk to my daughter, she would say that the whole team were her parents,” Barnes-Mileham says. “If the babysitter fell through, [my teammates and coaches] would watch her at the track. The small-town feel of Fresno State was the village that I think people refer to when a community is supporting you.”

For Barnes-Mileham, the opportunity to attend Fresno State as a scholarship student-athlete in the era of Title IX was not just for her, but for her daughter, too. And she made the most of it.

Title IX is a federal law passed in 1972 that guarantees equal access to any program or activity that receives federal funding.

Barnes-Mileham earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Fresno State before getting her Ph.D. and a law degree. She now serves as senior vice president for CFT, a union of educators and classified professionals.

In competition, she was a three-time national runner-up (1985, ’86, ’87) in discus, before competing for Team USA in the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta. Her time as a collegiate athlete coincided with a time

of great success for women’s athletics at Fresno State — and an era that set the foundation for many of the opportunities that exist today for women and girls in athletics.

Scholarship support fuels student-athlete success

The Bulldog Foundation is tasked each year with raising the funds necessary to provide scholarship assistance to about 400 Fresno State student-athletes. The estimated total cost of student-athlete scholarships in 2021 was \$8 million. Fresno State’s student-athletes set a record-high in 2020-21 with a 3.37 cumulative grade-point average.

400
Student-Athletes Receiving Athletic Scholarships

3.37
Cumulative GPA for the School Year

“When a person has an athletic scholarship,” says Fresno State Director of Athletics Terry Tumey, “what you’re saying as a University is, ‘I feel so good about you that I am going to enhance your life through education. I’m going to provide you the opportunity to improve yourself and have more tools, more resources, more assets, in order for you to grow personally.’ That’s a huge gift. We don’t celebrate that gift enough.”



Margie Wright, who at one time was the winningest softball coach in NCAA history during her time at Fresno State, long advocated for opportunities for female student-athletes. In 1996, Bulldog Diamond (now Margie Wright Diamond) opened as the largest on-campus softball stadium in the nation. Two years later, Wright led the Bulldogs to a national championship.

That gift would not be possible without the private support of the community. And while scholarship support is critical to the success of both male and female student-athletes on campus, the Bulldog Foundation is embarking on a special campaign to support the long-term success of women’s athletics in honor of this year’s 50th anniversary of Title IX.

Celebrating 50 years of Title IX

What Title IX means for collegiate sports is that public institutions are legally required to provide men and women with equitable sports opportunities. What that means for Fresno State women’s athletics specifically is a storied history of all-Americans, an impressive number of Olympians and many conference and NCAA championships — including the softball team’s 1998 national title.

Former Fresno State softball coach Margie Wright knows what it takes to make the most of opportunities. When Wright was a three-sport collegiate athlete at Illinois State in the early 1970s, before the introduction of Title IX, being treated the same as a male athlete was a far-off fantasy, she says. There were no pre-game meals, buses or planes for travel to away games and tournaments, or stadiums dedicated solely to her sports.

Even when she first became the softball coach at Fresno State in 1985, she says she had to beg to have lights installed at the field her team played at so that they could hold evening games. Eleven years later, in 1996, Bulldog Diamond opened as the largest on-campus softball stadium in the country (dedicated as Margie Wright Diamond in 2014).

It wasn’t an easy or smooth road, but she took every opportunity that Title IX afforded and pushed to provide more for her student-athletes.

“When a person has an athletic scholarship,” what you’re saying as a University is, ‘I feel so good about you that I am going to enhance your life through education.’ ... That’s a huge gift. We don’t celebrate that gift enough.”

TERRY TUMEY
Director of Athletics

“The fact that the law got passed so that female athletes could receive scholarships for their God-given talents is phenomenal,” Wright says. “[Title IX] changed athletic departments across the country. All the years of hard work that female athletes put into their sports, now, was being validated with scholarships, fans, facilities, marketing and recognition. That never happened to them before.”

Wright, who is now retired after a storied 27-year career at Fresno State, notes how today’s young female athletes might not realize that women’s sports hasn’t always been like it is now — it took a lot of advocating, fighting and empowerment to make the progress that it did. It’s women like Wright who have paved the way, and even though she missed out on what Title IX would have given her access to as an athlete, she said she wouldn’t have had it any other way.

“I’m so grateful that I got to be one of those pioneers,” Wright says.

There’s no doubt future generations will be grateful, too.

— Maggie Thach Morshed is a freelance writer based in San Diego. 



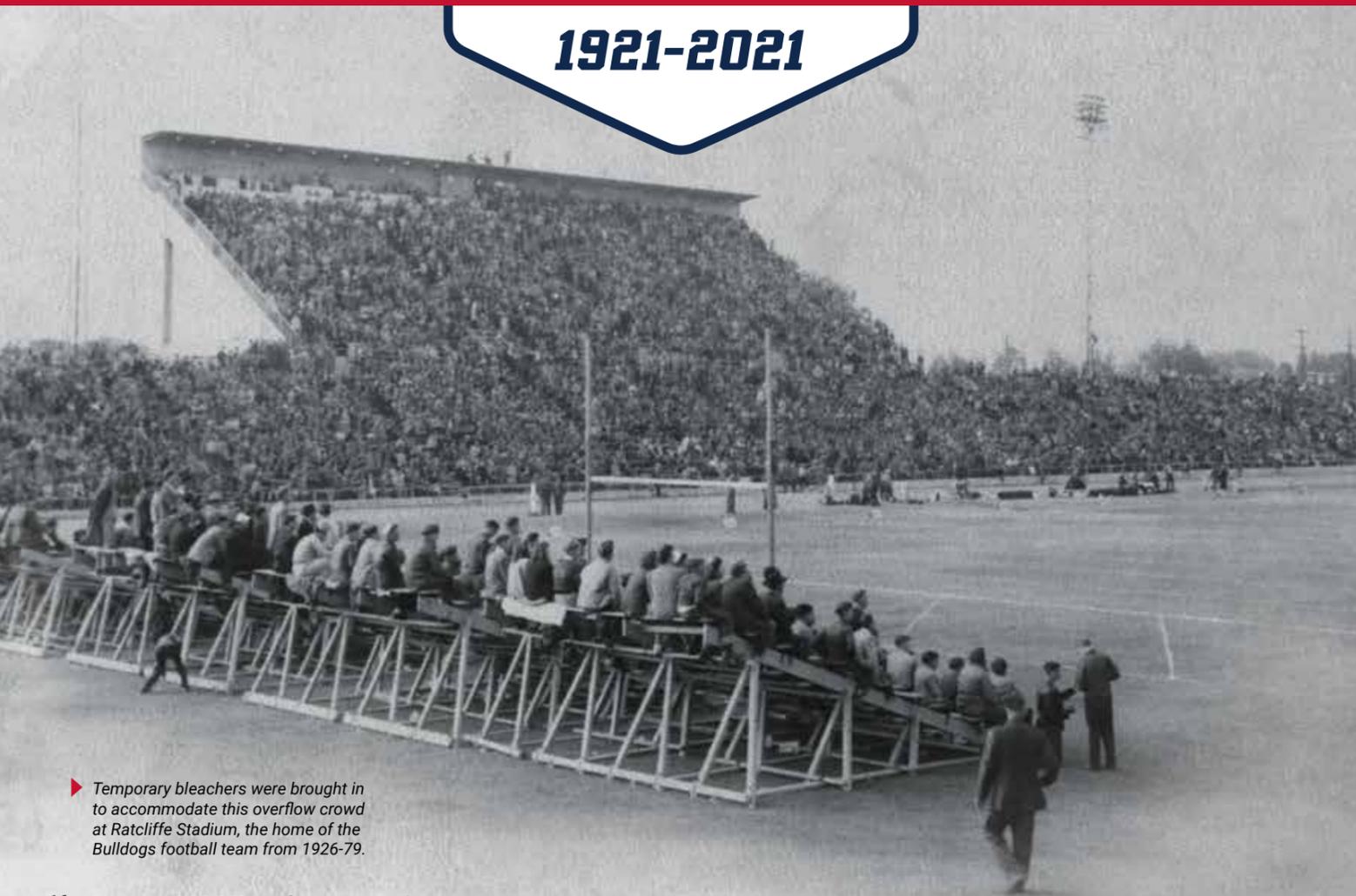
To invest in the lives of student-athletes as they represent the University on a national level, visit:

bulldogfoundation.org



A CENTURY OF THE RED WAVE RISING

1921-2021



► Temporary bleachers were brought in to accommodate this overflow crowd at Ratcliffe Stadium, the home of the Bulldogs football team from 1926-79.



A timeline of historical moments and milestones that shaped Fresno State athletics

By Eddie Hughes

It all started with an extraordinary vision. A community of hardworking people thirsty for an identity latched on to a growing University. As the student body grew, the fan base grew along with it.

These Bulldogs brought a sense of pride this humble Valley had never before seen. An energy so infectious that everyone wanted to be a part of it. The Red Wave was born.

Fueled by Bulldog spirit, inspired by legends and uniting us all like nothing else can, athletics became the front porch that introduced thousands to the University.

It wasn't an overnight success. It took years — decades even — to nurture and mature. Like the crops of our fertile Valley, seeds were nurtured into a fruitful harvest. While the bar was being raised for Dutch Warmerdam's world-record pole vaults, so too was the bar for what's possible within the "sleeping giant" that is Fresno State athletics.

And that story is still evolving. This year, we celebrate 100 years of Fresno State athletics. But our story is far from over, and now is not the time to rest. With continued bold thinking and an entire Valley of support, there's no telling what is yet to come.

Here are 100 moments and milestones that have helped shape Fresno State athletics in its first 100 years:

1911

1 On Sept. 11, Fresno State Normal School opened its doors.



1921

2 The Bulldogs football team (pictured left) began competition. Led by coach Arthur W. Jones, the Bulldogs finished with a record of 2-4.

3 The Bulldogs men's basketball team (pictured) began competition, finishing with a record of 6-5.



4 Student body president Warren Moody and friends were continually greeted on campus by a white bulldog. Soon students were bringing the nameless pooch to football games. Arids Walker made the motion to adopt the nickname in a student body meeting. On Nov. 21, the Morning Republican first referred to Fresno State as the Bulldogs.

1922

5 The baseball team (pictured above) began competition. Coached by Arthur W. Jones, the team finished 2-2.



1926

6 Fresno State Stadium, now known as Ratcliffe Stadium, was dedicated on Oct. 9 on the campus of what is now Fresno City College.

1929

7 Hurdler Charles Kaster set a West Coast Relays record in the college class, finishing with a time of 14.5 seconds.

1934

8 High jumper Walter Marty (*pictured*) became the first Fresno State athlete to win an NCAA title with a mark of 6 feet, 8¾ inches. In 1933-34, he set three world records, including a jump of 6 feet, 9⅞ inches.



9 Fresno State adopted its fight song, "Fight Varsity" — "Go 'Dogs go, fight 'Dogs fight, goooooo 'Dogs!"

1935



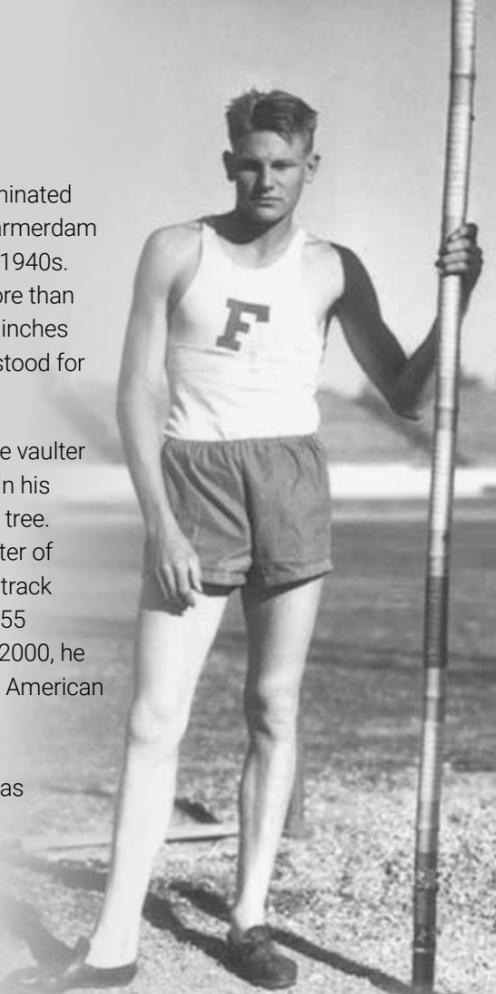
10 Fresno State's first live mascot, a white purebred bulldog, was introduced to fans under the name, "Touchdown" (*pictured above*).

11 Elroy Robinson won the NCAA and AAU title in the half-mile before setting world records in 1937 in a 1,000-yard race and the 800 meters and 880 yards.

1940

12 Few, if any, athletes have ever dominated an event like Cornelius "Dutch" Warmerdam (*pictured*) did the pole vault in the 1940s. He topped the world record by more than eight inches, reaching 15 feet, 7¾ inches outdoors in 1942 — a record that stood for 15 years.

Warmerdam was a self-taught pole vaulter who grew up in Hanford, vaulting in his backyard with the limb of a peach tree. He was voted as the top pole vaulter of the 20th century and the greatest track and field athlete of all-time in a 1955 United Press International poll. In 2000, he was named USA Track and Field's American Pole Vaulter of the Century, and in 2001 — just seven months before his death at age 86 — he was voted by Fresno State fans as the Bulldogs' Athlete of the Century.



1941

13 Fresno State's baseball park (later named Euless Park) opened east of Ratcliffe Stadium on what is now the Fresno City College campus.

14 Two-time All-American Jack Mulkey (wide receiver/defensive back) became the first Bulldogs football player ever selected in the NFL Draft, chosen in the 15th round by the Chicago Bears.

1942

15 Jackie Fellows' 21 touchdown passes led the nation and earned the 5-foot-6 quarterback first-team All-America honors.

1943

16 There was no football or basketball season in 1943-44 because of World War II.

1950

17 The Bulldog Foundation was created to support student-athlete scholarships. Today, about \$8 million per year is required to provide scholarships to about 400 student-athletes.

18 Ground was broken on the new Fresno State campus (Shaw/Cedar) on Oct. 17 — five miles east of the old campus (which is now Fresno City College).

The Nickname Bulldogs is Born

Legend has it that in 1921 student body President Warren Moody and friends were continually greeted on campus by a white bulldog. Soon, students were bringing the nameless pooch to football games, and Arids Walker made the motion to adopt the nickname in a student body meeting. On Nov. 21, the Morning Republican first referred to Fresno State as the Bulldogs.

But there was no official mascot until 1935, when a white, purebred bulldog named **Touchdown** was introduced.

In the mid-1950s, **Moose** debuted on the sidelines. But tragedy struck in 1958 after a game against College of the Pacific when Moose escaped his student keeper's grasp and ran under the wheels of the visitors' rooters train.

Upon hearing the news, the Marine Corps donated **Moose II**, who was later succeeded by **Diamond. Moose III**, described as "a shy version of [Fresno State's] ferocious mascot" lived to be 13, but retired in 1973 after 10 years in the role because he feared the cannon that celebrated Bulldogs touchdowns. **Moosifour** was donated in 1973, but attracted little enthusiasm during a time when campus turmoil upstaged student spirit.

Fresno State's first costumed-character mascot debuted in the 1970s. The first was a gray fur suit with a papier mache bulldog head and a large, round dog tag that read "**Scooby**."

In 1981, student Gary Johns designed the familiar gray and white **TimeOut** costume with a lighter Fiberglas head, and student Charles Mugredechian was the first to wear the outfit. To this day, TimeOut has been a fixture at games and community events. In 2007, a trimmer, more athletic, brown-colored costume was introduced but was promptly rejected by fans and was replaced the next year by a more traditional TimeOut.



In the 1980s football coach Jim Sweeney revived the live mascot tradition, purchasing **Halftime**. But the tradition faded again until 2006 when **Victor E. Bulldog** was introduced after a tryout that included more than 90 bulldogs. Beloved by fans, he succumbed to cancer in 2012 at age 8. **Victor E. Bulldog II** debuted Sept. 15, 2012, and tragically died from a bee sting before turning 3 years old.

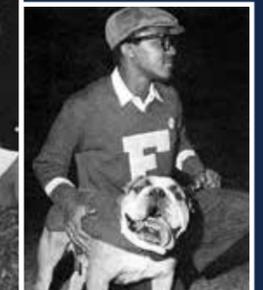
In June 2015, **Victor E. Bulldog III** took the helm, and has been adored by the community since. His "Victor E. lap" will begin in spring 2022 as the University begins its search for **Victor E. Bulldog IV**.



◀ 1950, Alameda Air Pac's Two Percent poses restrainedly with easy-going bulldog Duke.



◀ 1965, Patti Degan (head pep girl), Bobbette Rich, Diane Clover, Maryann Cox, Joanne Parada, Sherrie Pickford and mascot Moose.



◀ 1966, head yell leader Inman Perkins, and mascot Moose.



◀ 1980s, coach Jim Sweeney with his bulldog, Halftime.



▲ 2008, Victor E. Bulldog



2015, Victor E. Bulldog III and TimeOut



▲ 2012, Victor E. Bulldog II


1952

19 Led by Satoshi "Fibber" Hirayama's (pictured above) school-record 71 career steals, baseball made its first of 34 NCAA Tournament appearances.

1954

20 Men's gymnasium (now known as North Gym) opened.

1956

21 Women's gymnasium (now South Gym) opened.

1959

22 Baseball made its first College World Series appearance.

1961

23 Football beat Bowling Green in Mercy Bowl fundraiser for Cal Poly players who died in plane crash.

1964

24 Track and field won the NCAA College Division national championship. Darel Newman (pictured right) won the 100-yard College Division championship.


25

Charles Craig set the NCAA triple jump record (College Division champion).

1965

26 Varsity Field (now Pete Beiden Field at Bob Bennett Stadium) opened for Bulldogs baseball.


27

Women's volleyball and women's basketball (pictured right) began competition.


1967

28 Pitcher Larry Gonsalves (pictured right) threw a perfect game (no hits, no walks) vs. Cal Poly, one of just 24 perfect games in NCAA history.


1968

29 Wrestler Mike Gallego (pictured left) won the Division I national championship at 171 pounds. He compiled a 47-1 career record.

30

The men's tennis team won the Division II national championship with a win over Cal State Los Angeles in Fort Worth, Texas.

Track and Field National Champs

On June 12-13, 1964, at Ratcliffe Stadium, coach Dutch Warmerdam led a 15-man squad to Fresno State's first team national championship in any sport. Competing in the College Division prior to Fresno State's Division I days, the team scored 85 points, well ahead of second-place Long Beach State (57), Cal Poly (40), College of the Redlands (37), North Carolina (30) and Ohio State (26).

Sid Nickolas won the 120-yard high hurdles and the long jump, while finishing third in the triple jump. Two-time All-American Charles Craig took first in the triple jump at 51 feet, 9¼ inches. The "Bald Bullet" Darel Newman won the 100-yard dash in 9.3 seconds, while teammates Sam Workman and Marvin Bryant each clocked 9.4 seconds. Workman also took fourth place in the 220 yards.

The team of Bryant, Nickolas, Workman and Newman also won the 440-yard relay. The team also picked up points in the 3-mile with a fourth-place finish from Howard "Spike" Biggers and a sixth-place finish from Rick Dahlgren. Bill Allen finished sixth in the pole vault.

Following the meet, the Bulldogs who finished in the top six of their events were invited to face the rest of the nation's top teams in the NCAA University Division Championships in Eugene, Oregon. There, they finished third overall in the team standings, led by Craig's triple jump national championship.

1969

31 Fresno State joined the Pacific Coast Athletic Association.

1972

32 Title IX was enacted on June 23, providing women and men with equitable sports opportunities.

33

Fresno State College renamed California State University, Fresno (or more commonly Fresno State).

1977

34 "Stadium Builders": Led by defensive backs Dean Jones and Bob Glazebrook, the 1977 football team reeled off eight straight wins to close the season at 9-2 and was dubbed the "Stadium Builders," sparking momentum for the team to move from Ratcliffe Stadium to Bulldog Stadium, which broke ground in 1979.


Tennis Wins National Title

The 1968 Fresno State tennis team won the Division II national championship with a win over Cal State Los Angeles in Fort Worth, Texas. The team also won its first California Collegiate Athletic Association title that year, under coach Richard Murray.

In 1971, Fresno State tennis began competing at the Division I level. In 1979, the women's tennis team was established.

While women's tennis remains a varsity sport at Fresno State, the men's program was discontinued because of ongoing financial challenges that were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The men's tennis program, led by coach Luke Shields, claimed its first Mountain West championship in 2019.





1980

35 The first-ever game at Bulldog Stadium (pictured above) took place on Nov. 15, a 21-14 win over Montana State.

1982

38 The men's basketball team was ranked as high as No. 11 nationally and made its first Sweet 16 appearance (pictured).



1983

39 A student-athlete facility opened near Bulldog Stadium; named for benefactor Robert "Bob" Duncan in 1986. The Duncan Building now houses football locker rooms, coaches' offices, meeting rooms and more.

40

Men's basketball won the NIT championship at Madison Square Garden; before being welcomed home with a parade (pictured).



1981

36 The Fresno Bee's Ron Orozco coined the term **Red Wave** for the Fresno State fan base on Jan. 17.

37 Fresno State's costumed mascot TimeOut was introduced. Students performing as TimeOut are eligible for an annual \$2,000 scholarship through the Bulldog Pride Fund.



1984

41 Coach Leilani Overstreet (pictured) led the volleyball team to its first NCAA Tournament, where it tied for fifth place after defeating UC Santa Barbara and Cal Poly.

42

Men's water polo ranked a program-best sixth nationally, and ranked eighth the following year before winning a Big West Conference title in 1990.

43

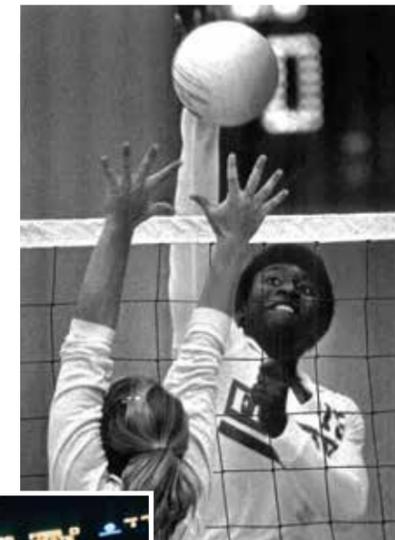
John Hoover was named the NCAA Pitcher of the Year, setting an NCAA record with 19 complete games. He also held the NCAA record with 42 career complete games, and the school record of 44 career wins.

Lawanson Becomes First Female Athlete to Have Jersey Retired

All-American Ruth Lawanson became the first female athlete in Fresno State history to have her jersey number retired on Jan. 21, 1985, at the volleyball team's awards banquet.

On Nov. 9, 2019, she was further honored when her No. 15 jersey was ceremoniously raised to the rafters in the Save Mart Center, the arena the Bulldogs volleyball team now calls home.

Lawanson, the 1984-85 Fresno State Athlete of the Year, led the Bulldogs to a program-record 26 wins during her senior season in 1984, and she remains the program's career leader in hitting percentage.



The Nigeria native went on to compete in Major League Volleyball, earning Player of the Year honors in 1988 before helping Team USA to a bronze medal in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.



'Grant's Tomb'

In the early 1980s, the newly coined Red Wave flooded into Selland Arena for Fresno State men's basketball games. With coach Boyd Grant leading the program to new heights, the arena was lovingly nicknamed "Grant's Tomb." But it was what they did beyond the Valley that got the nation's attention.

First it was the 1981-82 season, when the Bulldogs finished 27-3 (13-1) to win the Pacific Coast Athletic Association title. Led by Rod Higgins, they advanced to the NCAA Tournament, opening with a 50-46 win over West Virginia to advance to the Sweet 16 for the first time in school history before being eliminated by Patrick Ewing-led Georgetown.

In 1982-83, the "Bookend Forwards" Ron Anderson and Bernard Thompson – along with point guard Tyrone Bradley – led Fresno State to a National Invitation Tournament (NIT) championship that garnered attention across the country. About 1,500 Red Wavers made the trip to New York to see the Bulldogs win at Madison Square Garden – during an era

in which the NCAA Tournament included just 32 teams and the NIT was more competitive than ever. The Bulldogs beat UTEP, Michigan State and Oregon State before heading to New York, where they defeated Wake Forest and DePaul for the title. Thousands of fans gathered on campus for a historical celebration upon the team's return to Fresno (pictured left).

That fanfare carried over to 1983-84, when the Bulldogs and their "Bookend Forwards" knocked off No. 3 Houston (and star Akeem Olajuwon) 68-61 and No. 5 UNLV 68-43. After beating UNLV again to win the PCAA Tournament, the Bulldogs earned an NCAA Tournament berth, losing to Karl Malone's Louisiana Tech team in the opening round.

1985

44 Olympian Ruth Lawanson became first female athlete at Fresno State to have her number retired.



1986

45 Men's soccer advanced to the Final Four of the NCAA Tournament.

46 On Nov. 22, during the first half against Utah State, quarterback Kevin Sweeney (pictured above) connected on an 11-yard pass to Stephen Baker to become the NCAA's all-time passing leader, breaking Doug Flutie's record from Boston College. Sweeney finished with 10,623 yards (10,808 including bowl games).



1987

47 Wendy Martell (*pictured right*) became the first women's basketball player to have her jersey retired after becoming the first All-American in program history with a school-record 1,595 points (which now ranks fifth all-time). Her No. 34 jersey was later raised into the Save Mart Center rafters in 2020.



48 Under coach Jose Elgorriaga (*pictured; who was also a Spanish professor on campus*), men's soccer achieved the school's first No. 1 national ranking in any Division I sport. On Sept. 27, an NCAA-record 12,224 fans watched the Bulldogs host San Francisco.

49 Olympian Lacy Barnes-Mileham (*featured on page 14*) earns third straight NCAA runner-up in discus.

50 Doug Fraley (*pictured*) won the NCAA indoor and outdoor national championships in pole vault with a record-mark of 18-feet, 11 inches. He also won the 1986 indoor national title.



1988

51 Baseball won a school-record 32 straight games and was ranked No. 1 nationally before advancing to its second College World Series. PCAA Player of the Year Lance Shebelut set a school record with 32 home runs.

52 The PCAA became the Big West Conference.

1989

53 Three baseball players were selected in the first round of the Major League Baseball draft: outfielder Steve Hosey (14th overall, Giants), shortstop Eddie Zosky (19th, Blue Jays) and Tom Goodwin (22nd, Dodgers).

54 Tom Goodwin (*pictured*) led the NCAA in stolen bases for the second straight year. The 14-year Major Leaguer holds Fresno State's all-time record with 164 stolen bases. He also won a gold medal as the youngest member of Team USA at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.



1990

55 Men's golf placed fifth in the NCAA championships, the school's highest-ever finish. Mike Watney coached 29 All-Americans, including David and Kevin Sutherland, and won 12 conference championships in 34 years leading the program before he retired in 2013.

56 J.D. Williams became Fresno State's first, first-round NFL Draft pick (16th overall, Buffalo Bills).

1991

57 Two-time All-American men's soccer player Gerrell Elliott was named the NCAA player of the year. He was Fresno State's career leader in goals (54) and points (136).

58 Pitcher Bobby Jones was named NCAA Player of the Year with a 16-2 record and 1.88 ERA. He had an NCAA-record 166 strikeouts and led the Diamond 'Dogs to their third College World Series.

1992

59 Gene "Red" Estes (*pictured*) took over as track and field coach in 1980 after Dutch Warmerdam retired, and Estes led the Bulldogs to 10 straight conference championships from 1983-92.



60 Fresno State joined the Western Athletic Conference.

61 Fresno State defeated No. 23 USC 24-7 in the Freedom Bowl.

1993

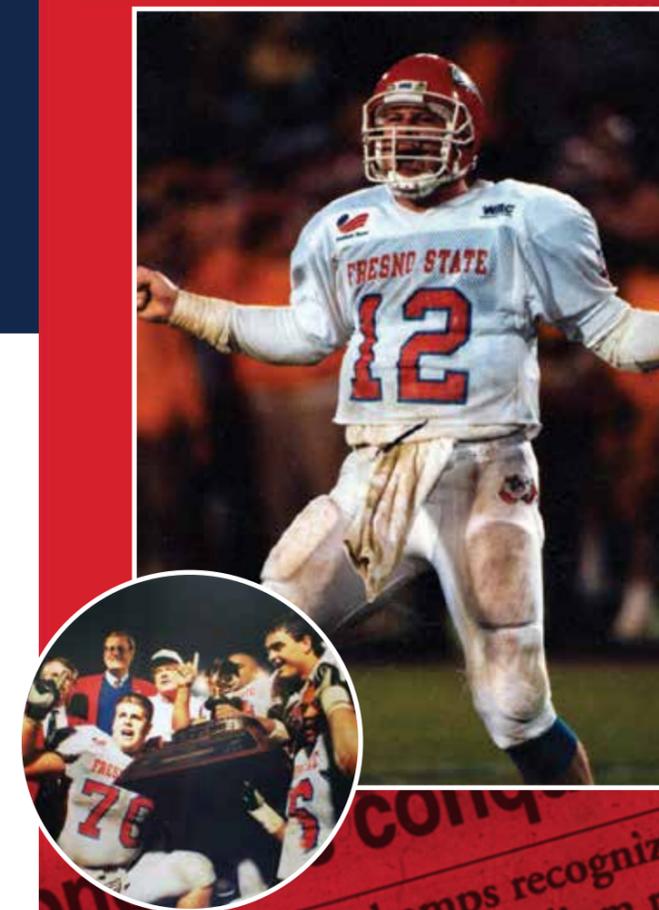
62 Wrestling finished eighth in the NCAA team championship under coach Dennis DeLiddo (*pictured*), who led the team for 24 years before retiring in 2005. DeLiddo coached 55 individual conference champions and 27 All-Americans. His career dual meet record was 304-165-3.



Let Freedom Ring



In 1992, Fresno State won a share of the WAC title in its first year in the conference, earning a trip to the Freedom Bowl in Anaheim to face No. 23 USC. Led by coach Jim Sweeney, quarterback Trent Dilfer (*pictured below*) and fullback Lorenzo Neal, the Bulldogs beat USC 24-7 and woke up the next morning to see this Los Angeles Times headline: "Fresno teaches USC Humility 101." The Red Wave made up about 30,000 of the 50,745 fans in attendance on that rainy Dec. 29 evening.



Freedom Bowl champs recognized with parade, spirited stadium rally

...the rally was concluded with a parade...

...the WAC is going to rue the day they beat Fresno in the league," said Sweeney, who won a share of the title.

...Sweeney also noted Fresno State's success in a resolution of "I've Got That Bulldog Spirit" in the Western Athletic Conference, in 1992.

...The highlight of the rally was provided by head coach Jim Sweeney, who spoke to the crowd and even sang. Sweeney thanked the fans, his coaches and his players for the season and then led the crowd in a rendition of "I've Got That Bulldog Spirit."

...The rally was concluded with a parade...



1995

63 Men's basketball hired Jerry Tarkanian, (pictured left) an alumnus who at the time was the winningest coach in NCAA history. He led the Bulldogs to six straight 20-win seasons and seven postseason appearances from 1995-2002, including NCAA Tournament berths in 1999-2000 and 2000-01.

1996

64 Bulldog Diamond (pictured right) opened as the largest on-campus softball stadium in the nation (renamed Margie Wright Diamond in 2014).



65 Women's tennis made its first NCAA Tournament appearance.

66 Men's tennis went 23-5 and ranked No. 6 in the nation. Sophomore Fredrick Bergh advanced to the NCAA singles championship match.

67 Softball star Laura Berg made her first of four Olympics appearances as an outfielder for Team USA. She was the only softball player ever to medal four times as a player, earning gold in 1996, 2000 and 2004, and silver in 2008. She also earned silver as an assistant coach for Team USA in 2021. In 1996, Berg was joined on Team USA by fellow Bulldogs Kim Maher, Martha Noffsinger-O'Kelley, Julie Smith, Shelly Stokes and Margie Wright (assistant coach).

68 Jim Sweeney Field at Bulldog Stadium was dedicated in honor of the 19-year coach who retired following the 1996 season. His 143 wins are the most ever by a Bulldogs football coach (pictured; Coach Sweeney at the trophy case, far left, and coaching his son, Kevin Sweeney).

1997

69 When Pat Hill (pictured left) became football coach, he incorporated the Green  into the Bulldogs brand with a decal on the back of the helmets symbolizing the team's pride in representing the San Joaquin Valley. The color green was selected to signify the importance of agriculture in the region.

70 All-American pitcher Jeff Weaver set an NCAA postseason record with 21 strikeouts in a win over Texas A&M in the first round of the West Regional at Stanford. Weaver closed his Bulldogs career with a school-record 477 career strikeouts from 1995-97. He was drafted in the first round by the Detroit Tigers (14th overall) and was a member of the 1996 U.S. Olympic team.



1998

71 Fresno State (pictured above) defeated Arizona 1-0 on a Nina Lindenberg home run to win its first Women's College World Series championship, and the first Division I team national title in school history.

72 Melissa Price (pictured bottom right) became the first-ever women's NCAA pole vaulting champion; repeated in 1999.

1999

73 The women's soccer program, established in 1995, won its first WAC title and played in its first NCAA Tournament. The program went on to win WAC championships in 2007 and 2010, and WAC Tournament titles in 2005 and 2008.

74 Dora Djilianova (pictured right), a native of Bulgaria, became Fresno State's first All-American in women's tennis, leading the team to its first WAC championship.



2000

75 With her 1,345th win, Margie Wright became the winningest coach in NCAA softball history with the Bulldogs' 1-0 win over Oklahoma on March 5. When she retired in 2012 she had 1,454 wins (1,291 with the Bulldogs) while leading Fresno State to 10 Women's College World Series appearances.

76 Men's basketball standout Courtney Alexander (pictured) led the nation in scoring with 24.8 points per game and led the Bulldogs to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in 16 years. He became the 13th overall pick in the NBA Draft.



Women's College World Series



Making its 11th Women's College World Series appearance, Fresno State softball captured its first national championship — and the University's first Division I team title — with a 1-0 victory over Arizona at Don E. Porter Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City. Sophomore pitcher Amanda Scott shut down the Wildcats on three hits and the Bulldogs broke Arizona's 29-game winning streak when senior second baseman Nina Lindenberg's sixth-inning home run snapped a string of 52 straight scoreless innings by Arizona pitchers. Scott, Lindenberg and outfielder Laura Berg were all named first-team All-Americans and freshman outfielder Becky Witt was a second-team All-American. Legendary coach Margie Wright had previously led the Bulldogs to three national runner-up finishes before capturing the national championship in Fresno State softball's 20th season as a varsity sport. At the time, just four other schools had ever won a national title in the sport.



2001



77 Football rises to No. 8 in the nation after early-season wins at Colorado, vs. Oregon State and at Wisconsin. Quarterback David Carr (*pictured*) appeared on the cover of Sports Illustrated on Sept. 17 with the headline: "Fresno? Yep. Unheralded Fresno State is knocking off college football's big boys."

2002

79 Wrestler Stephen Abas (*pictured*) won his third straight national championship at 125 pounds. In 2004, he earned an Olympic silver medal representing Team USA in Athens.

80 Three-time All-American golfer Nick Watney (*pictured*) ranked No. 1 nationally in two polls. He went on to earn a No. 9 ranking on the PGA Tour in 2011.

81 David Carr was drafted No. 1 overall in the NFL Draft. Carr was one of three Bulldogs drafted in the first round of major professional sports that year: Melvin Ely (Clippers), Ben Fritz (A's).



2008

84 Women's basketball advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the first time, setting off a streak of seven straight appearances in the Big Dance. The Bulldogs claimed four regular season conference titles and six conference tournament titles in that span.

85 Four years after its inaugural season, women's golf won its first team conference championship, led by Laura Luethke (*pictured*), who won the individual WAC title.

86 Baseball won the College World Series, Fresno State's first Division I team national championship in a men's sport.



2003

82 Track and field coach Bob Fraley was featured in a Sports Illustrated column by Rick Reilly after he forfeited his salary to prevent program cuts during a time of budgetary constraints.

83



The Save Mart Center, the largest on-campus arena on the West Coast, opened as the new home to the men's basketball team. Volleyball hosted Hawaii in the first athletic event in the arena on Nov. 9, drawing 4,708 fans. On Dec. 5, the first men's basketball game in the new arena drew 14,309 fans to see the Bulldogs beat Arkansas-Monticello 68-55 behind 27 points from Marcus West.

2009

87 Led by four-time WAC Player of the Year and two-time All American Melanie Gloria, women's tennis (*pictured*) won its eighth straight WAC championship and advanced to the NCAA Tournament Round of 16 for the fourth consecutive season.



2010

88 Paul George (*pictured*) became the highest NBA Draft pick from Fresno State; going 10th overall (Indiana Pacers).



78 Two alumni died in Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Todd Beamer (baseball, *pictured left*) led an anti-terrorist revolt on United Flight 93, which crashed. Lt. Cmdr. Otis Vincent Tolbert (football, *pictured right*) was killed when a hijacked jetliner hit the Pentagon.



Underdogs to Wonderdogs

"Cinderella wins a national championship!" Those were the euphoric words of ESPN broadcaster Mike Patrick as Steve Detwiler caught a fly ball to seal Fresno State's first College World Series baseball title. The Diamond 'Dogs came into that magical season with high hopes and a talented roster, but lost 12 of their first 20 games and needed to win the WAC Tournament just to make the NCAA Regionals. Seeded No. 4 in their four-team region, the Bulldogs beat Long Beach State and San Diego to advance to a Super Regional at Arizona State, where they won two of three games. Fresno State opened the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska with a big win over Rice, before defeating North Carolina twice and Georgia twice to win the national championship.

In Game 3 of the final series vs. Georgia, Detwiler hit two home runs with a torn ligament in his hand and drove in all six runs of the 6-1 victory. Pitcher Justin Wilson struck out nine on four hits over seven innings. Third baseman Tommy Mendonca was named the College World Series MVP, hitting four home runs and 11 RBI while flashing impeccable defense throughout the tournament. The win marked Fresno State's first Division I team national championship in a men's sport, and was the Bulldogs' fourth appearance in the College World Series (1959, 1988, 1991, 2008). Coach Mike Batesole was named the NCAA Coach of the Year as the Bulldogs became the lowest seeded team to ever win a championship in any sport.



2011

89 Aaron Judge (*pictured*) won the NCAA Home Run Derby in Omaha. He was drafted in the first round (32nd overall) by the New York Yankees.



90 The Fresno State Aquatics Center opened, becoming home to women's swimming and diving, and later to women's water polo when the program debuted in 2018.

2012

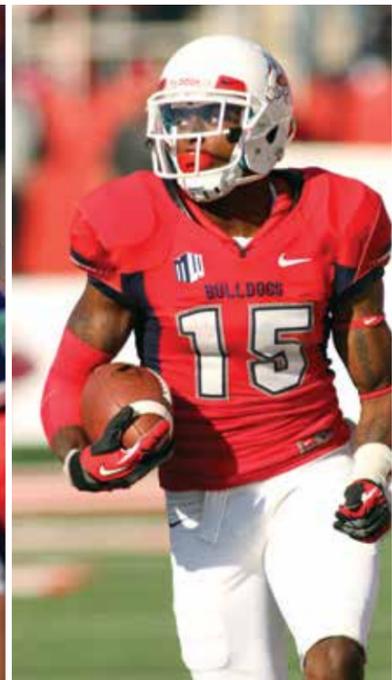
91 Fresno State joined the Mountain West Conference, and won a share of the football championship in its first year.

2013

92 Quarterback Derek Carr (*pictured*, No. 4) led the nation with a school-record 5,082 passing yards and 50 touchdowns, and sophomore wide receiver Davante Adams (*pictured*, No. 15) led the nation with a school-record 24 receiving touchdowns and 131 receptions. The Bulldogs ranked as high as 15th in the nation after a 10-0 start, finishing 11-2 and winning the first-ever Mountain West championship game, which was held at Bulldog Stadium.

2014

93 Bulldog Diamond was dedicated as Margie Wright Diamond in honor of the longtime coach.



2016

94 Bob Bennett Stadium was dedicated in honor of the school's all-time winningest baseball coach. Bennett became the seventh coach in NCAA history to reach 1,300 wins, coaching 32 All-Americans and nine first-round MLB draft picks.

95 Behind all-time leading scorer Marvelle Harris, men's basketball won its first Mountain West tournament championship and advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in 15 years (*pictured*).

2018

96 Football won a program-best 12 games, including wins at UCLA and over Arizona State in the Las Vegas Bowl (*pictured*). The Bulldogs beat a ranked Boise State in a snowy, overtime thriller in Boise in the Mountain West championship game, and finished ranked No. 18.

2019

97 Equestrian (*pictured*) finished the pandemic-shortened season ranked No. 4 – its highest-ever national ranking. Early that season, the team rode to three consecutive top 10 wins, defeating No. 2 Texas A&M, No. 3 Oklahoma State and No. 8 Baylor within the span of one month.

2020

98 Multiple sports had their seasons cut short or eliminated due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Women's basketball won the 2019-20 Mountain West Championship.

2021

99 Baseball coach Mike Batesole (*pictured*) earned his 600th win at Fresno State on April 10, making Fresno State the first college baseball program in NCAA history to have three straight coaches reach 600 wins at that school. Bob Bennett and Pete Beiden previously accomplished the feat.

100 Women's water polo (*pictured*) won the conference tournament and made its first NCAA Tournament appearance while reaching the top 10 of the national rankings.

— Eddie Hughes is senior editor for Fresno State Magazine. 🐾

Visit: fresnostate.edu/magazine for an online exclusive.



What's your favorite Bulldog memory?

Whether it's one we mentioned or one of the many others we didn't have room for in this issue, share the milestones that stick out to you and we may publish them in the future!

Email magazine@csufresno.edu, message us on Twitter [@FresnoState_Mag](https://twitter.com/FresnoState_Mag) or on Facebook and Instagram.



BULLDOGS RISING

Celebrating 100 years of legacy, with a vision of Fresno State's future

By Eddie Hughes

One hundred years is worth celebrating. Remembering. Learning. There's a lot of history bundled up in these pages — some well-known and some that's surely surprising. The people, the places, the accomplishments — all combining into the milestones that created the pride and tradition that makes Fresno State fans, students and alumni feel so connected to the wins and lessons learned from the losses.

So as we raise our glasses and give cheers to 100 years of Fresno State athletics, we celebrate this moment in time while keeping focused on the future.

In the ever-changing landscape of college athletics, Fresno State has continuously risen to the challenge — oftentimes doing more with less and competing with the best of the best across the country.

From the earliest days of competition in the Roaring '20s when football and basketball schedules sometimes included high school opponents,

to the present day when the Bulldogs' softball and baseball programs have won Division I national championships, and the football program has claimed wins over the likes of USC, UCLA, Cal, Washington, Wisconsin, Colorado, Virginia, Kansas State and many more.

So what are the athletic department's priorities as the page turns to the next 100 years? For Director of Athletics Terry Tumey, the top two are improving facilities and continuing to grow resources in order to invest in people.

"We have to invest," Tumey says. "Our investments need to be very intentional. We must get beyond doing the things that are standard and really make our investments count toward the student experience. We really need to move in that space."

It's not lost on Tumey that Fresno State's sister campuses in the California State University system — and Mountain West Conference rivals — both have major capital projects underway. San Diego State's 35,000-seat, \$310 million Aztec Stadium is scheduled to open in September 2022. San Jose State's CEFCU Stadium is undergoing a \$57 million renovation.

Fresno State, which regularly draws larger crowds than its rival schools, is due for investments in 41-year-old



"Athletics is the common denominator. It lets everyone in and shares the gifts of the University, no matter where you come from or what your background is."

TERRY TUMEY

◀ There is perhaps nothing else in the Valley that unites the entire community behind a common cause quite like Fresno State athletics, as demonstrated by the generations of fans who make up the Red Wave.

Cary Edmondson



◀ Kevin Atkins, a standout defensive tackle on the football team, compares the energy of playing in front of the Red Wave to a 5-year-old's excitement on the first day of school. He is pictured here celebrating with fans after the Bulldogs' 40-37 win at No. 13 UCLA at the Rose Bowl in September.

Samuel Marshall

“It’s not the same atmosphere as when you have those people behind you, screaming for you. It’s a different feeling. You get this empowering feeling. It’s like, ‘OK, now I’ve got this city on my back.’”

KEVIN ATKINS

Bulldog Stadium as well, Tumey says. “The stadium is the pinnacle of our athletics department. We want the stadium to be a community asset, so it has to go beyond being used six times a year. Figuring out how to best utilize the stadium where it best serves the community on gameday or for events is definitely on the forefront.”

Fresno State President Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval and University leadership are looking into how to best address stadium improvements, and Tumey is confident the community will step up in support when the time is right.

“We have a community of partners feeling the same way about this University and feeling the same way

about athletics, who know what it can be. So I feel very comfortable talking about what we need to move forward.”

Back in the stands

Early in the 2021 season, it was encouraging simply to have fans back in the seats after the pandemic-shortened 2020 season during which no fans were permitted at any of the fall or winter sports competitions.

All-Mountain West football player Kevin Atkins, a defensive tackle, says the team couldn’t wait to play in front of the Red Wave again. “It felt like the first day of school when you’re 5 years old,” Atkins says. “You get excited, get your backpack on, get your lunch and get ready to go.”

He says the team knew people were watching on TV last year, but nothing compares to having fans there in person.

“It’s not the same atmosphere as when you have those people behind you, screaming for you. It’s a different feeling. You get this empowering feeling. It’s like, ‘OK, now I’ve got this city on my back.’”

Pride of the Valley

Events like that — whether it’s a football game, softball, volleyball or any other sport — are what creates touchpoints for the community. These events have the power to introduce young people to the University and to higher ed in general, and to inspire them to pursue an education.

“What’s important for us is that athletics truly becomes that portal that allows our University to flourish,” Tumey says. “We’ve had athletic success, and we know what that looks like. We know how Fresno State can move the needle nationally as it relates to athletics. If we continue to drive forward and have success, it continues to shine a light on this great University. We’ll have students who want to be here because they want to be part of a great community.”

That synergy between academic and athletic success is a priority for Jiménez-Sandoval.

“Athletics has the unique power to bring us all together. It’s the most incredible unifier,” Jiménez-Sandoval says. “Just as we intend to build on our widely recognized brand in sports, we also intend to promote and showcase the transformative energy of our academics, the importance of our alumni in the region and the transformative and palpable impact of state investment and private philanthropic support on sustaining and uplifting this most productive Central Valley that feeds the world.”

A unifier. In today’s day and age, perhaps that’s the secret ingredient that makes Fresno State athletics so valuable in the Central Valley.

“This university has been a melting pot. It has helped so many people — it doesn’t matter race, color, creed,” says alumnus Lorenzo Neal, a 16-year NFL veteran who had his football jersey retired on Oct. 23. “That’s what’s so neat about sports. It doesn’t matter who you are, where you come from, what your background is. It’s just how you get along, how you coexist. That’s why I think sports has been the basic foundation for this country.”

There is perhaps no other event in the region that brings us all together behind one common cause the way a game at Bulldog Stadium or the Save Mart Center does.

“That’s the beauty of athletics,” Tumey says. “Athletics is the common denominator. It lets everyone in and shares the gifts of the University, no matter where you come from or what your background is.”



ATHLETICS 101: BULLDOGS RISING



Cary Edmondson

▲ Jordan Brown, a forward on the women's soccer team, pushes past Alexa Loera, Santa Clara midfielder.

▼ Savanah Smith celebrates with volleyball teammates. Bulldog student-athletes, coaches, and staff proudly wear the “Green V” to show their pride in representing the San Joaquin Valley.



Cary Edmondson

CLASS NOTES

1940s

Bob Wills (1946) retired from architecture firm Bernardo|Wills Architects PC.

1950s

Elvin C. Bell (1959), author and former Fresno councilmember, donated a dozen of his books to Central Unified School District.

Robert Brigham (1951) was featured in a Bloomberg opinion piece on reparations in regard to the graduate thesis he wrote in 1956.

David Krehbiel (1957) wrote a memoir titled "Through the Door: A Horn-Player's Journey," which was nominated for the Writer's Digest Self-Publishing Book Awards in the categories of memoir, nonfiction and electronic book.

1960s

Tim Vaux (1968) was honored in an article by Produce Business for his work with the DuPont Company and the United Fresh Produce Association's Industry Leadership Program.

Keith Woods (1968), CEO of North Coast Builders Exchange, will retire in December.

1970s

Susan Abundis (1976) is now director for Bank of the Sierra.

Marie Baker (1977) is now director for Southwestern Idaho of the Idaho Small Business Development Center.

Carol Chandler (1972) received the Western Growers 2021 Award of Honor.

Carolyn (Clark) Loder (1977) was appointed to the board of Integra Resources and K2 Gold Corp, mineral exploration companies based in California and Idaho. She is past president of the California Mining Association and was a Top Dog Alumni Awards recipient.

Judy Lund-Bell (1972) co-authored the book "Flying with a Dragon on Our Tail" with her husband Jim Bell about their adventure of flying a single-engine Cessna from Paris to Beijing and back in a historic 1987 air race.

Tom Taggart (1979) retired after 34-year career in financial services in leadership roles with Charles Schwab, Barclays, Union Bank and Franklin Templeton. He is a volunteer and musician.

BULLDOG BORN, BULLDOG WED

- A** **Anthony Chacon** (2009) and Arianne Chacon welcomed their daughter, Arizeia, on March 11.
- B** **Chris Gonzales** (2008) married Nick Hanneman on Aug. 28 in Lynchburg, Virginia.
- C** **Jaime A. Moncayo** (2012, '12) married Beth Edelblute on Sept. 18 in Brooklyn, NY.
- D** **Staci (Miller) Rich** (2014) married **Andrew Rich** (2015) on Dec. 19 in Sanger.
- E** **Lyndsey (Besser) Roach** (2008) and Jeff Roach welcomed their second child, Brooks Russell, on Aug. 20.



1980s

Frank P. Barajas (1988, '91) authored his second book, "Mexican Americans with Moxie: A Transgenerational History of the El Movimiento Chicano in Ventura County, California, 1945-1976."

Rogelio Fernandez (1983) is now medical director for the Kaweah Health Tulare Clinic.

Mindy Hamlin (1986) is now vice president of engineering for Crown Electrokinetics.

Robert A. Jensen (1988) is a crisis management expert and chairman of Kenyon International Emergency Services.

Daniel Silva (1983) appeared on the TODAY show, discussing how the Jan. 6 riot influenced his latest book, "The Cellist."

1990s

Barry Belli (1991), a former kicker for the Bulldogs football team, is CEO and co-founder of Atlas Vineyard Management.

Julia Dudley Najieb (1995) was awarded 2020 Producer of the Year for Central Valley-based public access TV station CMAC for her endeavors in reporting regional ethnic news.

Yami Rodriguez (1998) was appointed to the California State University Board of Trustees and has been both a national trainer and consultant for the Youth Leadership Institute since 2020.

Douglas C. Verissimo (1995) will be assigned as director, Assessment Division, N81, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington, D.C.

2000s

Jamila Dugan (2008) authored a book, "Street Data: A Next-Generation Model for Equity, Pedagogy, and School Transformation."

Cindy Gray (2003) is a water treatment specialist for the National Guard and a California Highway Patrol officer.

Brenna Hughes (2006) founded a private speech-language pathology practice, Central Cal Speech.

Joe Larranaga (2007) is the owner of Larranaga Vineyard.

Mark Sánchez (2004,'10) is the superintendent and president of Southwestern College.

Mike Sholiton (2001) is now the director of college scouting for the Minnesota Vikings.



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Singleton Thibodeaux-Yost (2009) works for the University of Arizona as an operations engineer for the High-Resolution Imaging Science Experiment (HiRISE) aboard NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter.

Stephen Trembley (2008, '11) is now director of strategic communications for Fresno State athletics. He has worked in the department for 14 years.

Stacy Wise (2000) is now director and chair of the Catherine W. Wood School of Nursing at Campbell University.

Anthony Witrado (2005) is now public relations lead for diversity/inclusion and membership at PGA of America.

2010s

Joe Bernardi (2010), a former Bulldogs offensive lineman, is now athletics director for Immanuel Schools.

Lauren Billys (2013) competed in equestrian at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.

Camille MacDermott (2017) graduated from Western University in 2021 and has started a rotating internship at Equine Sports Medicine & Surgery in Weatherford, Texas.

Garrett McIntyre (2010), the former WAC Defensive Player of the Year as a defensive lineman for the Bulldogs who went on to play for the New York Jets, is co-founder of the commercial real estate company, RIZE Equity Group.

Fidel Moreno Meza (2021) is now a morning reporter for CBS 4, based in El Paso, Texas.

Audrey K. Monke (2015) published her book, "Happy Campers: 9 Summer Camp Secrets for Raising Kids Who Become Thriving Adults."

Andrew Rich (2015) is now the head softball coach for Idaho State. He previously served as an assistant coach for Boise State.

Mikey Stallings (2013) is now an advocate supervisor with CASA.

Kacie Thomas (2010) is now vice president for media strategy at Hotwire, a website that offers unsold travel inventory at discounted prices.

Timothy VanderPloeg (2016) is now working in the launch services program for NASA at Vandenberg Air Force Base in Lompoc.

Jacob Vazquez (2018), a former Bulldogs offensive lineman who teaches agricultural business, was voted 2020-21 Butte College Teacher of the Year.

Shaela Warkentin (2018) appeared on "Say Yes to the Dress."

IN MEMORIAM

'For thee, our hopes and memories'

Lucy Aguilar (1973),
Sept. 18, Clovis.

Harriet Anne Andris (1933),
Sept. 19, Clovis.

Alphonso Bigelow (1997),
May 11, Fresno.

Shirley McGrew Carlson (1969),
March 21, Fresno.

Linda Anne Casarez (1996),
Sept. 23, Madera.

Maria Chacon (1974, '75),
Aug. 2, Fresno.

Barbara C. Chernikoff (1959),
Sept. 3, Mount Vernon, WA.

James Richard Clark (1961),
Sept. 18, Greeley, CO.

William "Bill" Clarke (1961),
Aug. 27.

Dick Contino (1952),
April 19, Fresno.

Ed Diener (1968),
April 17, Salt Lake City, UT.

Paul Evert (1972), May 2,
Clovis.

Bradley A. Foster,
Aug. 31, San Diego.

Frank Goeddel (1958, '71),
Feb. 10.

Dennis Grisso (1960), Oct. 29
Grand Junction, CO.

Barbara Hackett (1953), May
3, Poway.

Nancy Virginia Hanna (1984),
June 23, Colorado Springs, CO.

Kathryn Bonnie Hassett (1975),
Aug. 26, Merced.

**Jeannine Marie Conley
Heitman** (1987), Aug. 14,
Bellaire, TX.

Richard Henmi (1924), July 7.

Dale Hewlett (1964),
Sept. 3, Palm Desert.

Satoshi "Fibber" Hirayama (1952),
Sept. 15, Exeter.

Kurt Teruo Hishida (1989),
Sept. 3, Fresno.

John E. Horstmann (1958),
July 4, Fresno.

Lily (Kepplinger) Jones (1966),
Sept. 8, Tehachapi.

G. Michael Jordan (1987),
Aug. 28, Troy, AL.

Harry P. Karle (1950),
April 9, Fresno.

Earl Knobloch (1951),
Sept. 6, Fresno.

Lillian Eilene Krauter (1950),
April 26, Arvin.

Earl W. Lively Jr. (1963),
May 3, Fresno.

Heidi Lofgren (2019),
Nov. 10, 2020.

**Archie Theodore "Ted"
MacDonell** (1951), Sept. 14.

Alice Clover MacPherson (1956),
July 8, Fresno.

Frances Dawn Maiorino (1956),
June 11, Atwater.

Kristen Marie Marcotte (2014),
June 29, Outer Banks, NC.

Gilbert "Gil" Gottlieb Metzler (1950),
May 11, Fresno.

Shirley Jean Miner (1957),
April 16, Eureka.

Debra Mosley (1977),
May 20, Fresno.

Hilda M. Nelson,
July 13, Paso Robles.

Vernie Lee Parrott Jr. (1971),
Feb. 3, Los Angeles.

Walter J. Pierce (1983),
Aug. 4, Fresno.

Hortencia Davila Rodriguez (1987),
June 18, Merced.

Carole Sarkisian-Bonard (1967),
June 23.

Donald James Schafer (1960),
Sept. 2, Fresno.

April Dianna Hollis Sherrill (1988),
June 22, Visalia.

Gary Tallman (1954),
Sept. 11, Monarch, MT.

James Wulf (1956),
Aug. 15, Fresno.

FACULTY/STAFF

Martha Brown, Aug. 27,
Fort Collins, CO.

Gene "Red" Estes, Sept. 29,
Fresno.

Russell Howland.

John N. Tinker, April 3, Fresno.

James Winter.

FRIENDS

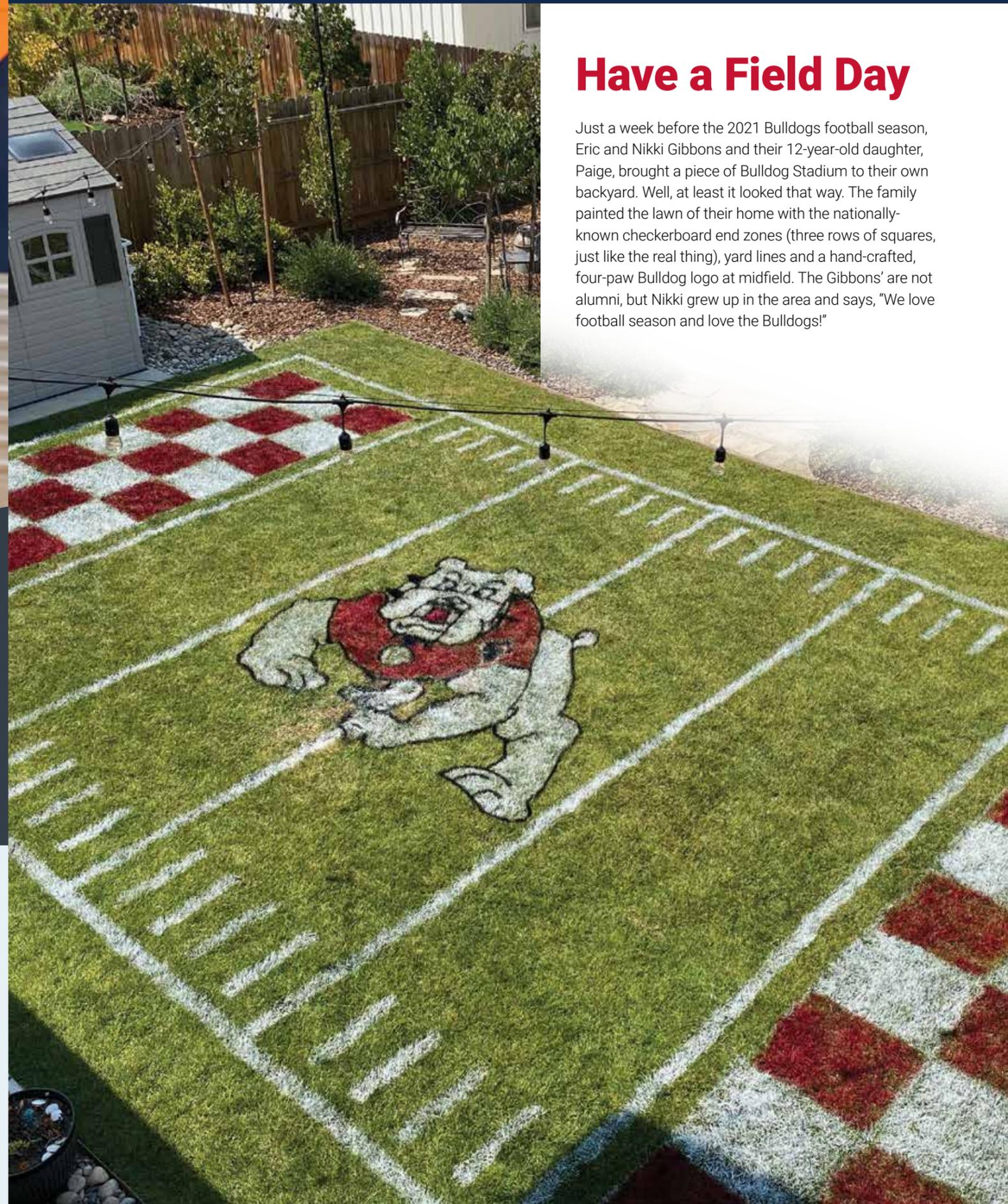
Toni Harrison, July 20.

Frances Ricchiuti, April 22,
Fresno.

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Have a Field Day

Just a week before the 2021 Bulldogs football season, Eric and Nikki Gibbons and their 12-year-old daughter, Paige, brought a piece of Bulldog Stadium to their own backyard. Well, at least it looked that way. The family painted the lawn of their home with the nationally-known checkerboard end zones (three rows of squares, just like the real thing), yard lines and a hand-crafted, four-paw Bulldog logo at midfield. The Gibbons' are not alumni, but Nikki grew up in the area and says, "We love football season and love the Bulldogs!"

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